

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of August 17, 2006. Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application, Claim 14 having been cancelled by prior Amendment. Claims 1-13 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,273,819 (hereinafter "Jex") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,395,677 (hereinafter "Hokkirigawa '677"). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jex and Hokkirigawa '677 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,697,709 (hereinafter "Mori"). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jex and Hokkirigawa '677 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,737,539 (hereinafter "Jinno"). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jex and Hokkirigawa '677 and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0114548 (hereinafter "Hokkirigawa '4548"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jex and Hokkirigawa '677 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,251,192 (hereinafter "Clark"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner with respect to the rejected Claims and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 and its dependent claims were rejected as indefinite because the limitation "low friction" of Claim 1 was indefinite because it was unclear how much friction is

possible while still being considered "low". Applicants amended Claim 1 to recite more particularly recite the limitation as follows: "... synthetic resin composition with a friction coefficient between 0.050 and 0.124 ..."

Applicants believe that all claims remaining in the Application comply with the definiteness requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

As claimed in current independent Claim 1, the present invention is an unshielded sleeve bearing for use in water. The sleeve bearing includes a shaft and a sleeve. At least a portion of the sleeve or the shaft is made of a corrosion-resistant synthetic resin composition obtained by uniformly blending a powder of one of RBC or CRBC material with fibers and a resin. The resin composition of the present invention exhibits an improved friction characteristic in underwater use under direct contact with water. As shown in Table 3 of the specification, the friction coefficient of the working examples 1-10 were between 0.050 and 0.124.

As described in Jex, the object of the reference is to provide a fiber reinforced extruded product with improved mechanical properties such as tensile strength, flexural strength, and compressive strength. *See* Col. 2, Lines 14-24. Jax discloses the product of the reference's invention can be used in a marine application because of good resistance to water and a high specific strength. *See* Col. 12, Lines 31-34. However, Jex does not address providing an improved friction characteristic, or that an improved friction characteristic can be obtained in underwater use of the invention.

Reviewing Jex in light of Hokkirigawa still would not lead to the improved friction characteristic of the present invention. Hokkirigawa does not disclose improved friction characteristics in water. In fact, Hokkirigawa specifically provides for friction characteristics

that are outside the range of the improved friction characteristic of the present invention. In table 3, Hokkirigawa sets forth the fiction coefficient for the invention disclosed therein. Table 3 provides for a fiction coefficient between 0.19 and 0.4 without a lubricant, and between 0.16 and 0.34 with a lubricant. Neither falls within the claimed range of 0.050 and 0.124. Thus, the results of the present invention would be unexpected, even considering Jex in view of Hokkirigawa.

Based on the above, Applicants believe that limitations of independent Claim 1, reciting the " synthetic resin composition with a friction coefficient between 0.050 and 0.124" are not met by the prior art of record. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Dependent Claims 2-13, are rejected over the same Jex and Haokkirigawa references. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-13 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claim 1 and, further, on their own merits.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is

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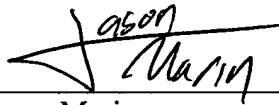
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required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely.

Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order

No. 051319-166.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Marin", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: November 15, 2006

Jason Marin

Reg. No. 55,799

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